



Lyn Brubaker:
"ARUBA
TO ME IS
HARMONY"

Page 8

Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

How Aruba got its white, sandy beaches



Page 7



**For the BEST
& the
BIGGEST Steak**
and so much more!

[f](#) [i](#)

Lobby Bar Menu



FRIDAYS
2 FOR 1 Sangria

Lunch Special
EVERYDAY 11:30AM - 5PM



\$28.90 +15%SC
TAX IS INCLUDED.

Local Deal
SATURDAY



15%OFF For Locals

Open daily from 11:30am - 11pm. Mondays Closed. Wilhelminastraat #80. Oranjestad, Aruba. Phone: +297 582-3677 • www.elgaucho-aruba.com

Pinchos Grill & Bar

Now in its 20th plus year, owned and run by a local family.

Open 7 days a week, as of 5:00PM
Full Service Bar
Live Music on weekends

Reservations: (297) 583 2666 or reservations@pinchosgrillaruba.com






An architect of Project 2025 is pressuring Republican senators to confirm Pete Hegseth

By **ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON**
Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—The think tank behind Project 2025, the conservative blueprint linked to President-elect Donald Trump, is launching an effort to back Trump's imperiled selection for secretary of defense in its latest attempt to wield influence in the incoming Republican administration.

Heritage Foundation President Kevin Roberts said Thursday that his group will spend \$1 million to pressure senators unwilling to back Pete Hegseth, whose nomination to lead the Pentagon has come into question due to his views on women serving in combat and reports about his personal behavior. A number of Republican senators have declined to commit to backing Hegseth or have asked for more information about his drinking and treatment of women. "It'll be messaging right now with their constituents about how out of step they are with the Trump agenda," Roberts said in an interview, who argued that criticism of Hegseth was being driven by "the establishment."

Roberts' announcement that



Kevin Roberts, president of The Heritage Foundation, speaks at The Heritage Foundation, Wednesday, April 12, 2023, in Washington.

Associated Press

he will support Hegseth is the latest sign that Project 2025, which Trump disavowed amid Democratic criticism during his campaign, is newly ascendant as Trump returns to the White House. The president-elect has picked several of its authors and contributors to key positions. Roberts spoke to The Associated Press during an event at Mar-a-Lago, Trump's Flor-

ida estate, after he said he saw Trump at another event Wednesday also attended by other incoming members of the president-elect's Cabinet. Roberts did not say whether he met privately or would meet privately with Trump.

Project 2025 includes proposals to reclassify thousands of federal workers so they could be fired and elimi-

nate or curtail several government agencies. Facing Democratic criticism over the blueprint, Trump sought to distance himself from it and denied knowing who was behind it, even as the proposal was drafted by longtime allies and former officials in his administration. The event at Mar-a-Lago was to launch an exchange-traded fund, or ETF, called Azoria

U.S. Meritocracy that is looking to target companies with diversity, equity and inclusion practices by excluding them from the fund. Its CEO, James Fishback, is close to Vivek Ramaswamy, the entrepreneur and former Republican presidential candidate in charge of the new Department of Government Efficiency with Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk.

Roberts introduced himself on Thursday as someone from Project 2025, and the small crowd laughed.

He noted he is good friends with Brooke Rollins, president and CEO of the America First Policy Institute, another group that laid the groundwork beforehand for a second Trump administration. Rollins has been nominated to serve as Trump's agriculture secretary.

Roberts said groups like the Heritage Foundation and America First Policy Institute were "close collaborators on the Trump agenda." He called the second Trump term the "beginning of the golden era of America's next chapter."

"I think we're in the middle of a re-founding of this country," he said. □

On its way out, the Biden administration renews a push for airline-consumer protections



A traveler walks to his gate at Miami International Airport, Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2024, in Miami.

Associated Press

By **DAVID KOENIG**
AP Airlines Writer

The Biden administration said Thursday it will take steps toward requiring airlines to pay cash compensation and cover lodging and meals for passengers who are strand-

ed when an airline causes flights to be canceled or changed.

Such a rule would go far beyond the current requirement for airlines to pay ticket refunds. It would make U.S. policy more closely resemble

airline consumer protections in Europe.

But with less than seven weeks until President Joe Biden leaves office, the fate of additional regulations on airlines will be left in the hands of President-elect Donald Trump's administration. The industry trade group Airlines for America said the Biden administration's proposal would drive up ticket prices.

"In this highly competitive industry, carriers don't need further incentive to provide quality service," the group said in a statement. "This proposal is simply one in a long string of ill-conceived and rushed rules from an administration intent on reregulating the U.S. airline industry."

Biden's Transportation De-

partment said it will seek public comment on requiring airlines to pay cash compensation — starting at \$200 — when a flight is canceled or significantly delayed because of a mechanical problem with the plane or an airline computer outage. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said his department is considering new passenger protections at this late date because air travel is breaking records.

The Transportation Department runs an online "dashboard" that lists each airline's promise around customer service when they cause flights to be canceled or severely late. However, passengers must usually ask for help at the airport, and airline promises don't carry the

weight of federal rules.

The department said it is considering cash compensation that could go as high as \$775 for delays of nine hours or more. The agency is considering letting small airlines pay less compensation than large ones.

The proposal will likely include free rebooking on the next available flight, possibly on another airline, and meals and lodging when passengers are stranded overnight. Many of the largest U.S. airlines already promise that kind of help when a delay or cancellation is their fault. The administration will seek public comment on how to distinguish cancellations or delays that are within an airline's control with those that are not. □

The U.S. government is closing a women's prison and other facilities after years of abuse and decay

By **MICHAEL R. SISAK and MICHAEL BALSAMO**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal Bureau of Prisons is permanently closing its “rape club” women’s prison in California and will idle six facilities in a sweeping realignment after years of abuse, decay and mismanagement, The Associated Press has learned.

The agency informed employees and Congress on Thursday that it plans to shutter the Federal Correctional Institution in Dublin, California, and its deactivate minimum-security prison camps in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Colorado, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Florida. Staff and inmates are being moved to other facilities, the agency said.

In a document obtained by the AP, the Bureau of Prisons said it was taking “decisive and strategic action” to address “significant challenges, including a critical staffing shortage, crumbling infrastructure and limited budgetary resources.” The agency said it is not downsizing and is committed to finding positions for every affected employee.

The closures are a striking coda to the Biden administration’s stewardship of the Justice Department’s biggest agency. After repeatedly promising to reform FCI Dublin and other troubled facilities, Bureau of Prisons Director Colette Peters is pivoting to closures and consolidation, citing inadequate staffing and staggering costs to repair aging infrastructure.

The permanent shutdown of FCI Dublin seven months after a temporary closure in the wake of staff-on-inmate abuse that led to the “rape club” moniker is the clearest sign yet that the agency — which has more than 30,000 employees, 158,000 inmates and an annual budget of about \$8 billion — is unable or unwilling to rehabilitate its most problematic institutions.



The Federal Correctional Institution stands in Dublin, Calif., Dec. 5, 2022.

The move comes three years after the agency closed its troubled New York jail in Manhattan after myriad problems came to light in the wake of Jeffrey Epstein’s suicide there, including lax security, staffing shortages and squalid, unsafe conditions such as falling concrete and busted cells.

At the same time, the agency recently committed to building a new medium-security prison facility and minimum-security camp for about 1,400 inmates in Roxana, Kentucky, citing a need for “modern facilities and infrastructure,” with \$500 million earmarked by Congress for construction. The Bureau of Prisons and the correctional workers union have repeatedly pushed for additional federal prison funding, highlighting what they say is an inadequate amount of money to address pay increases, staff retention and a multibillion-dollar repair backlog. More than half of federal prison facilities were built before 1991 and many are becoming outmoded or obsolete, the agency said.

The agency said it expects that reassigning employees to remaining facilities will boost retention and cut

down on mandatory overtime and augmentation, a practice by which cooks, teachers, nurses and other prison workers are assigned to guard inmates.

In a document summarizing the closures, the Bureau of Prisons said it decided to close FCI Dublin after a security and infrastructure assessment following its temporary closure in April. At the time, it appeared the agency was set on closing the low-security prison, but officials held out the possibility that it could be repaired and reopened for a different purpose, such as housing male inmates.

The assessment identified considerable repairs necessary to reopen the FCI Dublin, the agency said. Low staffing, exacerbated by the high cost of living in the Bay Area, also contributed to the decision to close the facility, the agency said. Other facilities being

“As the agency navigates a challenging budgetary and staffing environment, we must make incredibly difficult decisions. FCI Dublin will not reopen,” the agency said.

FCI Dublin’s permanent closure represents an extraordinary acknowledgment by the Bureau of Prisons that it has failed to

fix the facility’s culture and environment in the wake of AP reporting that exposed rampant sexual abuse within its walls. Hundreds of people who were incarcerated at FCI Dublin are suing the agency, seeking reforms and monetary compensation for mistreatment at the facility.

The closures at FCI Dublin and across the federal prison system come amid an AP investigation that has uncovered deep, previously unreported flaws within the Bureau of Prisons. AP reporting has disclosed widespread criminal activity by employees, dozens of escapes, chronic violence, deaths and severe staffing shortages that have hampered responses to emergencies, including assaults and suicides.

In July, President Joe Biden signed a law strengthening oversight of the agency after AP reporting spotlighted its many flaws.

In addition to closing FCI Dublin, the Bureau of Prisons is shuttering its minimum-security prison camps in Pensacola, Florida, Duluth, Minnesota, and Morgantown, West Virginia. It is also suspending operations at minimum-security satellite camps that are adjacent to federal prisons

in Oxford, Wisconsin, Littleton, Colorado, and Loretto, Pennsylvania.

Such facilities, built for the lowest risk offenders with dormitory-style housing and little or no fencing, have been the site of frequent escapes and an influx of contraband.

The Bureau of Prisons said the buildings at its Pensacola camp, which are owned by the Navy, are in “significant disrepair” and will be demolished after about 500 prisoners and 100 staff members are relocated to other facilities.

The Duluth camp is also plagued by “aging and dilapidated infrastructure,” including several condemned buildings that are contaminated with asbestos and lead paint, the agency said. About 736 inmates and 90 staff members will be moved to other facilities. The Morgantown camp is closing and about 400 inmates and 150 employees will be relocated to “maximize existing resources” at the federal prison complex in Hazelton, West Virginia, about 23 miles (37 kilometers) away.

Employees at the three idled satellite camps have been or will be moved to adjacent low-security prisons while the minimum-security inmates at the camps are moved elsewhere. The camp at FCI Oxford in Wisconsin was cleared out in June, the agency said.

The Bureau of Prisons again cited efficiencies and infrastructure concerns for the moves, including a \$26 million estimate for repairs to the camp at FCI Englewood in Littleton, Colorado. □

Associated Press

Like us on
Facebook



ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Police release new photos in the search for the gunman in the UnitedHealthcare CEO killing

By MICHAEL BALSAMO, JAKE OFFENHARTZ and MICHAEL R. SISAK

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The masked gunman who stalked and killed the leader of one of the largest U.S. health insurance companies outside a Manhattan hotel used ammunition emblazoned with the words "deny," "defend" and "depose," two law enforcement officials said Thursday. The words were written in permanent marker, according to one of the officials, who were not authorized to publicly discuss details of the ongoing investigation and spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity.

With the gunman still at large, police also released photos of a person they said was wanted for questioning in connection with the shooting. UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson, 50, died in a dawn ambush Wednesday as he walked to the company's annual investor conference at a Hilton hotel in Midtown, blocks from tourist draws such as Radio City Music Hall and the Museum of Modern Art. The reason behind the killing remained unknown, but investigators believe it was a targeted attack.

The message left on the ammunition echoes the phrase "delay, deny, defend," which is commonly used by attorneys and insurance



This image provided by the New York City Police Department shows a man wanted for questioning in connection to the investigation of the killing of UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson outside a Manhattan hotel, Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2024.

Associated Press

industry critics to describe tactics used to avoid paying claims. It refers to insurers delaying payment, denying a claim and then defending their actions. Health insurers like UnitedHealthcare have become frequent targets of criticism from doctors and patients for complicating access to care.

Investigators recovered several 9 mm shell casings from outside the hotel and a cellphone from the alleyway through which the shooter fled. Inside a nearby trash can, they found a water bottle and protein bar wrapper that they say the gunman purchased from a nearby Starbucks minutes before the shooting. The city's medical examiner was looking for fin-

gerprints.

The killing and the shooter's movements in the minutes before and afterward were captured on some of the multitudes of security cameras present in that part of the city. The shooter fled on a bike and was last seen riding into Central Park.

The hunt for the shooter brought New York City police Thursday morning to at least two hostels on Manhattan's Upper West Side, based on a tip that the suspected shooter may have stayed at one of the residences, according to one of the law enforcement officials briefed on the investigation.

The photos police released Thursday of a man wanted for questioning were taken

in the lobby of the HI New York City hostel. The man is smiling in one of the photos. "We are fully cooperating with the NYPD and, as this is an active investigation, can not comment at this time," Danielle Brumfitt, a spokesperson for the hostel said in an emailed statement. Police have received a flood of tips from members of the public, many of them unfounded. On Wednesday evening, police searched a Long Island Rail Road train after a commuter claimed to have spotted the shooter, but found no sign of the gunman. "We're following up on every single tip that comes in," said Carlos Nieves, a police spokesperson. "That little piece of information could

be the missing piece of the puzzle that ties everything together."

Investigators believe, judging from surveillance video and evidence collected from the scene, that the shooter had at least some prior firearms training and experience with guns and the weapon was equipped with a silencer, said one of the law enforcement officials who spoke with the AP.

Investigators also were looking into whether the suspect had pre-positioned a bike as part of an escape plan, the official said.

Security camera video showed the killer approach Thompson from behind, level his pistol and fire several shots, barely pausing to clear a gun jam while the health executive tumbled to the pavement. Cameras showed him fleeing the block across a pedestrian plaza, before getting on the bicycle.

Police issued several surveillance images of the man wearing a hooded jacket and a mask that concealed most of his face, which wouldn't have attracted attention on a frigid day. Authorities also used drones, helicopters and dogs in an intensive search, but the killer's whereabouts remained unknown.

Thompson, a father of two sons who lived in suburban Minneapolis, had been with UnitedHealthcare since 2004 and served as CEO for more than three years. □

The Rockefeller Center Christmas tree lights up in New York City



The Rockefeller Center Christmas tree is lit during the 92nd annual Rockefeller Center Christmas tree lighting ceremony, Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2024, in New York.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Fifty-thousand multi-colored lights were illuminated on Rockefeller Center's iconic Christmas tree Wednesday evening to cheers from the crowds gathered to witness the annual New York City tradition.

The giant Norway spruce, which this year hails from a tiny Massachusetts town, is also topped with a Swarovski star crown featuring 3 million crystals.

The 74-foot-high (23-meter-high) tree was cut down last month in West Stockbridge and trucked to Rockefeller

Plaza. Wednesday night's ceremony marked the culmination of the tree's long journey to New York, which began in 2020 when the center's head gardener spotted the tree and asked its owners if they'd consider donating it.

The famous holiday attraction, located above the Rockefeller Center ice skating rink, will be on view through mid-January. On Christmas Day, the tree will be lit for 24 hours.

Once the holiday season is over, the tree will be used for lumber for Habitat for

Humanity.

Security was stepped up for the annual tree-lighting ceremony after a gunman on Wednesday morning killed UnitedHealthcare's CEO outside a midtown Manhattan hotel about five blocks from Rockefeller Center. Chief of Department Jeffrey B. Maddrey said earlier in the day there would be "massive presence" of police, including additional officers in the subway.

"This is a terrible event, but people are going to go on and enjoy the tree lighting tonight," he said. □

Hamas official says Gaza ceasefire talks have resumed after weekslong hiatus

By **ABBY SEWELL**
Associated Press

ISTANBUL (AP) — A Hamas official said Thursday that international mediators have resumed negotiating with the militant group and Israel over a ceasefire in Gaza, and that he was hopeful a deal to end the 14-month war was within reach.

Ceasefire negotiations were halted last month when Qatar suspended talks with mediators from Egypt and the United States because of frustration over a lack of progress between Israel and Hamas. But there has been a “re-activation” of efforts in recent days to end the fighting, release hostages from Gaza and free Palestinian prisoners in Israel, according to Bassem Naim, an official in Hamas’ political bureau who spoke with The Associated Press in Turkey. Another official familiar with the talks confirmed the return of Qatari mediators. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the negotiations with the media. Since the talks broke down, there have been significant shifts in the global and regional landscape. Donald Trump won the U.S. presidential



Bassem Naim, an official in Hamas’ political wing, speaks in Istanbul, Turkey, Thursday, Dec. 5, 2024.

election, and a ceasefire was declared last week between Israel and Hamas ally Hezbollah in Lebanon. Trump is a staunch supporter of Israel, but Naim said he believes the incoming administration could “affect the situation positively” given that Trump had made halting wars in the region part of his campaign platform. Trump this week called for the release of all hostages held in Gaza by the time he takes office on Jan. 20, saying there would be “hell to pay” if that doesn’t happen.

Previous rounds of negotiations focused on variations of a proposal calling for a multiphased ceasefire beginning with a preliminary six-week halt in fighting during which female, elderly and sick hostages would be freed in exchange for Palestinian prisoners. During that time, Israel would pull back some forces, and displaced Palestinians would be allowed to return home. The sides would also begin talks on the next phase that would include the full withdrawal of Israeli forces, the release

of remaining hostages and the terms of a permanent end to the war. A third, final phase would focus on reconstruction.

Naim said that no “solid, well-formed” new ceasefire proposal has yet been presented to Hamas. And even though ceasefire talks have broken down on multiple occasions throughout the war, he added: “I think it is not a big challenge to reach a deal ... if there are intentions on the other side.” Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing

some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking around 250 people hostage. Israel’s blistering retaliatory offensive has killed at least 44,500 Palestinians, more than half of them women and children, according to Gaza’s Health Ministry, whose count does not distinguish between civilians and combatants.

In the negotiations to end the conflict, the two sides have been at odds on some major points, including whether any halt in the fighting would be permanent or temporary and whether Israeli forces would withdraw from all of the enclave, and on what timetable. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said Israel will maintain a long-term military presence in the territory and vowed to dismantle Hamas’ military capabilities and ensure that the militant group never governs again. Trump’s Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff met separately in recent weeks with Netanyahu and Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani to discuss Gaza ceasefire talks, according to a U.S. official who spoke anonymously because they were not authorized to comment publicly. □

Cuba restores power grid and resumes planned blackouts of about 5 hours a day

By **ANDREA RODRÍGUEZ**
Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — After a nationwide blackout left millions without electricity for several hours in Cuba, the power grid was restored Thursday, authorities said, adding that scheduled power outages will now resume.

The latest blackout, the third one of this severity in less than two months, occurred in the early hours of Wednesday, after a breakdown at a thermoelectric plant in Matanzas province, east of Havana. The incident triggered a chain reaction, overwhelming an already strained power system.

On Thursday, classes and work activities gradually returned to normal.

As for the scheduled power outages, Cuban authorities said they will continue their

current practice of implementing daily, five-hour power outages by block or zone as they have been doing for the past few months.

On Oct. 18, the island suffered a significant blackout that, added to the passage of Hurricane Oscar two days later, left the island without electricity for several days. Weeks later, Hurricane Rafael’s strong winds triggered another system-wide blackout that left the national energy system disconnected again.

Cuba’s power grid has been plagued by frequent outages in recent months, with more than half of the country experiencing power cuts during peak hours. The outages are primarily caused by fuel shortages and aging infrastructure. In many parts of the island, electricity is crucial for cooking and water pumping. □



A man cooks soup over an open fire on a sidewalk, during a blackout in Havana, Cuba, Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2024.

Associated Press

Pakistani court indicts former Premier Imran Khan over May 2023 attacks on military posts

By **MUNIR AHMED**
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A Pakistani court on Thursday indicted imprisoned former Prime Minister Imran Khan and dozens of his associates on charges of inciting people to attack military and government installations last year, officials and his party said.

Khan pleaded not guilty when charges were read out to him in court in the garrison city of Rawalpindi, according to officials and his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, or PTI. Khan and the others will go on trial under anti-terrorism laws that carry punishments up to life in prison.

PTI said that top party official Omar Ayub Khan, the current opposition leader in Parliament, also was arrested by police on Thursday. He was wanted on separate charges that included incitement of violence in the capital last week.

The indictments against Khan and the dozens of his party members stem from widespread violence on May 9, 2023 that was sparked by Khan's arrest at the time on corruption



Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan, right, and Bushra Bibi, his wife, speak to the media before signing documents to submit surety bond over his bails in different cases, at an office of Lahore High Court in Lahore, Pakistan, on July 17, 2023.

Associated Press

charges.

Thousands of demonstrators attacked the military's headquarters in the garrison city of Rawalpindi, stormed an air base in Minawali in the eastern Punjab province and torched a building housing state-run Radio Pakistan in the northwest.

Khan was ousted in a no-

confidence vote in April 2022 but has remained the leading opposition figure, and has since then been embroiled in more than 150 criminal cases that his party says are politically motivated.

Authorities say that during the May 9, 2023 riots, demonstrators targeted military installations because Khan

had repeatedly blamed his removal on the United States and Pakistan's military, which has ruled the country for half of its history since its independence from British colonial rule in 1947.

The U.S. government, the Pakistani military and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who replaced Khan after

his ouster in 2022, have denied the allegations.

A post on Khan's X account on Thursday night announced a rally Dec. 13 in the northwestern city of Peshawar to pay tribute to a dozen PTI supporters that the party says were killed by security forces during last week's march on Islamabad.

The government says six people were killed in the violence, but that none of them were PTI supporters.

Khan said on X that a five-member committee of senior PTI party leaders would be formed to demand talks with military leaders over the release of what he called political prisoners. Khan also called for a judicial commission on the violence of May 9, 2023 and of Nov. 26 of this year in Islamabad.

Khan said on X that if those two demands are not met, his party would launch civil disobedience on Dec. 14 that would start with asking Pakistanis abroad to reduce the amount of money sent back to Pakistan in remittances. That would be followed by unspecified further measures, he said. □

Mexico president will ask Trump to deport non-Mexican migrants directly to their home countries

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's president said Thursday she will ask President-elect Donald Trump to deport non-Mexican migrants

directly to their home countries, rather than dumping them at the Mexican border.

President Claudia Shein-

baum said she hopes to reach an agreement with Trump so that "they send people who come from other countries to their countries of origin."

Mexico, like any other country, is not obligated to accept non-Mexican migrants, but it has agreed to do so in the recent past, especially from countries like Cuba and Venezuela, which often refuse deportation flights from the United States, but may accept them from Mexico.

Mexican officials have said they are already making preparations if Trump follows through on his pledge to carry out large-scale deportations of migrants who lack the proper documents once he takes office on

Jan. 20.

Mexico is obviously fearful of two things: large-scale deportations of Mexican citizens and large numbers of non-Mexicans being deported at border crossings that are ill-equipped to deal with them.

Experts estimate there are about 4 million Mexicans living in the U.S. without proper documentation. Mexico is already preparing its consular services in the U.S. with additional manpower to handle deportation cases involving its own citizens.

But third-country deported migrants pose a thornier challenge, and could include considerable numbers of Haitians, Cubans and Venezuelans.

Between 2022 and 2023, Mexico agreed to accept up to 30,000 migrants per month from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela, countries that are difficult for the U.S. to deport to for diplomatic or political reasons.

That agreement is currently in place.

In late 2023, Venezuela said Mexico had repatriated about 300 Venezuelan migrants on two flights.

Such returns pose a monetary burden for the Mexican government.

Mexico had offered some of the repatriated Venezuelans a stipend of about \$110 per month for six months to help them re-establish themselves in their home countries. □



Newly-sworn in President Claudia Sheinbaum addresses supporters in the Zócalo, Mexico City's main square, on Oct. 1, 2024.

Associated Press

How Aruban beaches came to be!



(Oranjestad)—We've talked about the best beaches to visit on the island before, but have you ever wondered how Aruba got its white, sandy beaches, and why there's a clear difference between the northern and southern shores? Here are some fun facts about the development of Aruban beaches.

How did Aruba get its white, sandy beaches?

Aruba's beaches have developed over the span of thousands of years. Waves crashing on the rocky formations along our coast line (which consists mainly of coral reefs) have started to wear and tear the reefs over time, resulting in its gradual breakdown. Fish that feed

off corals also contribute to this, one small bite at a time. Over the course of thousands of years, as waves continue to crash and fish continue to eat off the corals, sand starts to accumulate around the area. However, whether the sand stays there is another question to be answered, and this is where we highlight the biggest difference between the northern and southern coast of the island.

The sand that accumulates around a torn coral reef is swept away along with the debris by the ocean stream. However, in areas where it's shallow and the stream is weaker, the sand tends to stick to the bottom faster. This is why the beaches in the south—the areas with weaker stream and shallower ocean floors—has sand



that stretches for miles. In contrast, the northern area, where the stream is much stronger and the ocean floor is much deeper, there is no sand present—they were swept away with the current!

Why north deep, but south shallow?

Ah! Good question...and interesting phrasing.

Aruba is a continental island. The island actually forms part

of South America, and the space between Aruba and the South American continent is simply referred to as land that runs under the ocean. This is why it gets gradually deeper in the south, whereas the ocean floor in the north runs steeply to the bottom. □

Source: archival document provided by the National Archive of Aruba (ANA).

Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!

NOORD - It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothened, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process. It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass. The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass.

The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry! Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges. Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass. Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car

tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown (Amstel & Polar beer), green (Heineken & Balashi beer) and clear glass which are the soft much loved "soft drink" bottles.

If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day! Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! □





QUALITY APARTMENTS AND SUITES



www.arubaqualityapartments.com

All Fully Furnished w/Kitchen, Airco, Cable Tv, FREE WIFI (in and outside rooms).
Swimming Pool, Gym, Library, Laundry Room & BBQ Sets.
Less than 1 mile from Eagle Beach & 2 Large Supermarkets.

FEEL FREE TO CONTACT OR VISIT US.
Mon-Fri: 8am - 7pm. Sat & Sun: 9am - 5pm. Worldwide calls: (297)-582-0697

+1 866 470 1411
Schotlandstraat 70, Oranjestad, Aruba

Email: info@arubaqualityapartments.com | Whatsapp: (297) 593 9647
Website: www.arubaqualityapartments.com

Discover all the benefits that Aruba Quality Apartments & Suites has to offer



So please, for your next trip to Aruba book directly with us at Aruba Quality Apartments & Suites.

Don't hesitate to contact us...
Marisella, Aislinn, Janique & Alec. ☐

Aruba Quality Apartments & Suites
Tel: (297)-582-0697
WhatsApp: (297)-734-3008

Email: info@arubaqualityapartments.com

Website: www.arubaqualityapartments.com

Toll Free Calls from the USA & Canada: 1-888-415-1095
Toll Free Calls from the Netherlands: 085-009-0218
Office Hours: Monday – Friday: 8am-7pm. Saturday & Sunday: 9am-5pm.
Facebook: @qualityapartments Instagram: aruba_quality_apts

Aruba Quality Apartments & Suites has been providing quality service in Aruba since 1995. On the premises are a total of 73 apartments (46 Studio, 22 loft apartments & 5 suites).

Known for its cleanliness, quiet atmosphere, hospitality at affordable daily and monthly rates. All 73 apartments are fully furnished and non-smoking. There is free WIFI on the premises and free international phone calls from the comfort of your room. There is a fresh-water pool, a fitness room and a laundry room. 2 BBQ sets outside. Free parking. And a security guard at night.

Aruba Quality Apartments & Suites is conveniently located less than 1 mile from Aruba's beautiful Eagle Beach, restaurants, hospital / pharmacy, casino's, 2 large supermarkets, car rentals, IMAX cinema and a golf course.



Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.

com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes


without compensation. Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. For today we received a lovely message from Lyn C. Brubaker from Lancaster, PA, USA.

She wrote to us saying: "Aruba


to me is harmony - my reminder that people of many nations can come together in harmony when visiting Aruba. Friendships strengthened, the world becomes more harmonious when visiting Aruba."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! ☐





DON'T MISS!
SIGN UP FOR OUR LOYALTY CARD
New members sign up and receive **\$10**
Existing members **PLAY 5 POINTS**
and receive **\$10 FREE PLAY!**



J.E IRAUSQUIN BLVD 83, NOORD AT BARCELÓ ARUBA. T +297 2804000

Celebrating Forty Years - 1,600,000 Point Giveaway Every Friday, Saturday & Sunday

50/30 Friday!

**We're giving away
\$50 Free Slot Play
to lucky slot and table
game players every
30 minutes from
7pm to Midnight!**

THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Auntie Anne's Pretzels | Aruba Aloe | Baskin-Robbins | M8 Botique
 Juan Valdez Café | Hungry Piranha - Pizza, Wings & More
 The Brownstone Ribs and Seafood | Moments & Memories Jewelry
 Fusion - Piano & Wine Bar | Shalom Body & Soul Spa | Treasure Cove
 Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard | The Market
 Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
Coming Soon: El Patio Tacos & Tequila



Open daily 10am to 3am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 588.9000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.



Infini Menu XII: A Boundary-Pushing Culinary Odyssey

Infini's Menu XII exemplifies the artistry of fine dining, where creativity meets impeccable culinary expertise. This thoughtfully designed tasting menu leads diners on a seamless exploration of diverse flavors, textures, and global inspirations.

The journey begins with **Pasa Palo**, an intriguing trio of Ceviche Tartlet, Kimchi Croquette, and Lettuce Pate Cracker. The ceviche boasts perfect acidity, creating a lively contrast against the umami richness of the kimchi croquette and the refreshing crunch of lettuce. Although I found the lettuce cracker to be slightly spicier than expected, this opening course sets a bold and adventurous tone for the evening.

Limpia Man acts as a sophisticated palate cleanser featuring LOVE-made Cayena Cleaning Oil. Its smooth texture and aromatic essence prepare the senses for the complexity to follow—a deft touch that enhances anticipation for what lies ahead.

Among the highlights, **E Jardin** stands out for its masterful combination of earthy and creamy elements. A delectable Faux Gras pairs impeccably with a signature crunchy cracker, alongside Swiss Chard, Mushroom,



Pear, and a Sauerkraut sauce. The flavors are expertly balanced, blending vegetal notes with rich umami, uplifted by the sweet tartness of pear. This dish is an absolute must-try and showcases the kitchen's finesse in orchestrating distinct elements into harmony.

The **Pulpo** course presents tender Octopus and Scallops, accompanied by Pumpkin, Cucumber, Piment d'Espelette, and Peach. This dish delivers a vibrant medley of smokiness and delicate sweetness, with the subtle heat of Espelette pepper elevating both the scallops and the perfectly cooked octopus.

Pisca y Speki features Seabass, Miso, Bacon, Spinach, and Black Garlic, blending land and sea in an inspired manner. The buttery seabass is beautifully complemented by smoky bacon and the complexity of black garlic. The miso sauce and spinach lend depth, enhancing the umami profile—a standout feature being the locally prepared bacon, which delights the palate with every bite.

Galiña features a skillfully prepared Chicken, accompanied by Tortellini, Jerk Spices, Pineapple, and Shizo Sweet Potato. The jerk seasoning adds a restrained kick, while the sweet potato and shizo add an aromatic layer that balances the mild heat—resulting in a dish that feels both comforting and sophisticated. A close contender for my favorite, **BBQ** delivers a remarkable Short Rib dish



accompanied by BBQ Sauce, Scallion, Chop Soy, Furikake Lau Gan Ma, Mustard Seeds, and a T2pan Croissant. The short rib is perfectly tender, and the smoky flavors combined with Asian influences are expertly presented. The mustard seeds and Furikake add a playful crunch, while the buttery croissant offers a whimsical touch that elevates this already exceptional dish.

Kumquat y Tomati brings a refreshing burst of citrus to the table, featuring Kumquat, Tomato, Pistachio, and Jerez. The tangy acidity of kumquat contrasts beautifully with the natural sweetness of the tomato, while the pistachio adds a subtle depth, making this dish an ideal bridge to the final sweet courses.

Papi Aroz delights with Rice, Pandang, Lychee, Berries, Sage, and Chai Tea, creating a fragrant mix of sweetness and warmth. The chai's spiced notes blend seamlessly with the tropical fruit and berries, making this dessert both comforting and complex.

Cos Dushi showcases a delightful duo of Mini Macaron and Petit Madeleine, paying homage to classic French patisserie with a refined twist. These elegant bites offer a satisfying balance of delicacy and richness, evoking the timeless appeal of traditional desserts.

To conclude the meal, **Cupcake** presents an indulgent combination of Horchata, Pineapple, and Bour-

bon. The nutty undertones of horchata meld harmoniously with the tropical sweetness of pineapple, while bourbon provides a warm finish—a fitting end to a journey defined by elegance and balance.

Overall Impression: Infini's Menu XII exemplifies the creativity and attention to detail deserving of a Michelin-starred experience. Each course is thoughtfully composed, showcasing an inspired blend of global influences with a consistent emphasis on balance and finesse. The progression of flavors throughout the meal creates a cohesive narrative that invites diners to savor each moment. It is truly unfortunate that the geographical location might pose a challenge for this restaurant to be recognized by Michelin inspectors. Nevertheless, the exceptional craftsmanship and passion displayed by the culinary team make Infini an experience that rivals some of the best establishments worldwide—an unforgettable celebration of gastronomy. □



Aruba: the legend behind its name



(Oranjestad)—Most folkloric tales and legends in Aruba revolve around our indigenous ancestors, who came from mainland Venezuela, and discovered the island and made it into their new home. This particular legend tells the story of the birth of the Aruba name.

The legend follows the life of Arua, an indigenous Cacique originally from Aroa in the Falcon state in Venezuela in the year 50 AD. Arua had a son around the year 70 AD with his wife Shira, who they named Corobori. When Corobori was old enough, he joined his father on the usual boat trip to the islands of Curacao and Bonaire to gather salt.

On their way back to Mainland Venezuela, they were caught up in a heavy rain storm—a side effect from a passing, but far away, hurricane. Of course, because of the lack of motors and sail, their boat was left in the mercy of the heavy winds. After a while, the storm started to pass, and the clouds began to clear up. Finally able to see around them, the Cacique spotted land approximately an hour away. So, they started to row in that direction until they reached the coast.

Once they arrived on what they thought was Venezuela, they decided to stay the night and fix their kayak. The next morning, the Cacique ordered his son and a few warriors to go find any sign of population in the area: "Corobori," Arua said. "Don't come back without news. It's in your hands how long we stay here till we find our family. So, if you need to take a week to gather information, we will wait for you."

"Don't worry," Corobori replied. "As soon as we have any information, we will let you know." Armed with arrows and spears, backpacks filled with food and water containers, they set off. They climbed several small hills, but no sign of a village. They crossed different dry riverbeds, but no sign of anything. When the sun finally descended, they found themselves near a fairly tall hill and decided to climb it for a better view of a village. This hill was called Pan Dushi or Orcuyo, which today we call Hooiberg.

The next morning, they could clearly see that they have landed on an island, but an unfamiliar one at that. When Corobori went back to where his father was waiting, he told him the news: "Father Arua, you have just discovered an island, but it is not Curacao or Bonaire. Far in the south, we saw the big mountains of our homeland Venezuela, which we could have never seen on the other island. This leads us to believe we are on a new island. But that's not all. When the sun came up, we saw in the distance a glowing plain, which we think may be salt."

The Cacique was pleased to hear of his son's findings. He decided to stay a couple days on the newly-discovered island in search for salt. The next morning they ascended Hooiberg again and stayed to see if they could find nearby smoke, indicating an inhabitant village. But they found nothing. So they went back to their initial arrival settlement, now known as Santo Largo in Savaneta. The next morning they hiked along the Spaans Lagoen near the Mangel Halto Beach and reached the area of Bushiri. There, they boarded their kayaks and heading to what we know now as Malmok, where they found rocks of salt. After a couple days of exploring the island and gathering some salt rocks, they left for Venezuela, where they were reunited with their families.

Throughout the year, they travelled back and forth to Aruba, collecting salt. After a while they settled on the island, generations of families living along the coast. Corobori was the first indigenous inhabitant in our history to explore the entirety of the island.

Arua, after decades as the leader of his tribe, spent his last days on the island. Having reached 80 years old, he called for his family on his death bed. In his hammock, he said: "My children, many years have passed, and I've asked my warrior to bring me back to the island so I can laid to rest. The God of living has given me the gift of life to see my son, grandchildren and great grandchildren. But now he is calling me home. Corobori, my torch is now passed to you. Guide our people, and be the leader you were always meant to become. If one day you leave my island, do not forget that it is also yours. This is my last wish: When I die, bury me in our maize plantation."

And so when the Cacique passed away, his wishes were granted and he was laid to rest in the area we now know as the Paradera Cemetery. Where he used to live, they built the Paradera Church.

And that is the tale of what inspired the Aruba name. In the generations that lived or travelled back and forth to the island, there were many familiar names*, like Guadiriki, a warrior who was there when the island got discovered and his son, whom he called Huliba; Corobori and his children, Corodori, Camacuri and Turibana, Masiduri; and Malmok, the 13-year-old boy who alerted the Cacique when the Caribes attacked.

Familiar names: all these names are familiar to Arubans, as these are the names of places and plants on the island.□

Source: Un storia di e Indjan Arua (A story of the Indian Arua) by Adolf (Dufi) Kock



In celebrating 200 years of Oranjestad... Learn about the history of the famous town hall!



(Oranjestad)—If you've ever taken a stroll through main street Oranjestad, you may have stumbled upon a big green house with beautiful colonial design. This legendary house, now used as a town hall for civil marriages, was once owned by a wealthy doctor and formed part of the elite neighbor-

hood in Oranjestad.

Jacobo Eloy Arends was an Aruban physician, and in lived in Oranjestad during the 1920s. In 1922, he married Maria Monica Lacle, the daughter of well-known business man at the time, Adrian Lacle. The two lived a posh life in the city center,

and their mansion—once the center for neighborhood parties—now serves as a public town hall for civil marriages and is a cultural monument on the island.

The house was designed by architect Chibi Wever, and constructed under the leadership of famous master carpenter, Dada Picus, who was famous at the time for his construction of beautiful buildings.

The construction of the house started once Jacobo and Maria got engaged. It is said that during the time of construction, Maria was not

allowed to see the building nor be anywhere near the construction site. It wasn't until after her honeymoon that she saw the completed mansion for the first time, furnished entirely by her sisters-in-law.

The mansion also contained the doctor's office, as well as a pharmacy. After the death of Jacobo, the house was inherited by his son, an Aruban dentist, who converted Jacobo's office into his own dental practice. Over the years, the house was rented and used by third parties, but eventually fell into disrepair, as the maintenance cost became too high to cover.

The land was sold to Land Aruba in 1986, but it did not see a renovation until 1997. Nowadays, it serves to host weddings, and is attached to a modern building situated behind—the Aruban census office.

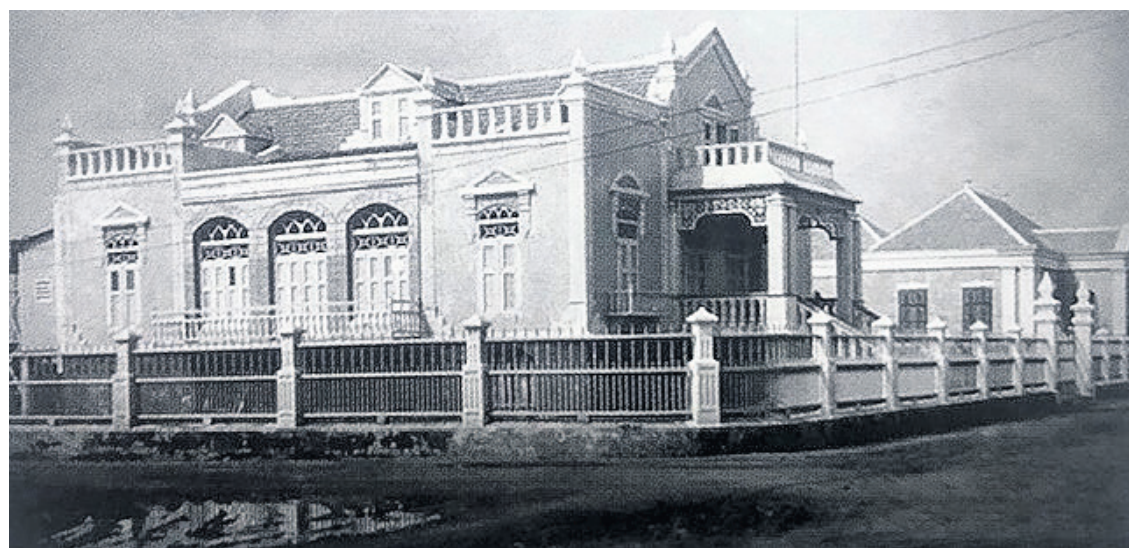
Jacobo and Maria's mansion was situated in front of another famous mansion, owned



by Jacobo's brother Frederico Maximiliaan (Machi) Arends. Frederico was married to Veneranda (whom the mansion was named after). Their house was also constructed by Dada Picus, utilizing Veneranda's design vision that was inspired by a house she saw in Cartagena, Colombia.

Nowadays, this mansion lies in ruins. However, the Aruban government recently announced its official restoration, with plans to convert this monument into a governmental office and public space for visitors of Oranjestad. □

Source and pictures credited to: "De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over the geschiedenis van Aruba)" by Evert Bongers.



Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back or still enjoying your vacation?... we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubato-day.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

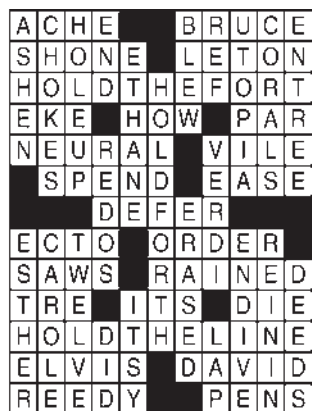
ACROSS

- 1 School course
- 5 Third-party account
- 11 Pale tan
- 12 Horse-related
- 13 Clothing line
- 14 Mas-saged
- 15 Nile serpent
- 16 "Buenos —"
- 17 Tribal leader
- 19 Reservoir maker
- 22 Stunned states
- 24 Marry in haste
- 26 A party to
- 27 Concept
- 28 Early computer
- 30 Wave's top
- 31 Baseball's Williams
- 32 Writer Asimov
- 34 Made a sketch
- 35 Drama division
- 38 Ill will
- 41 Like an eyesore
- 42 Ancient
- 43 Shortly

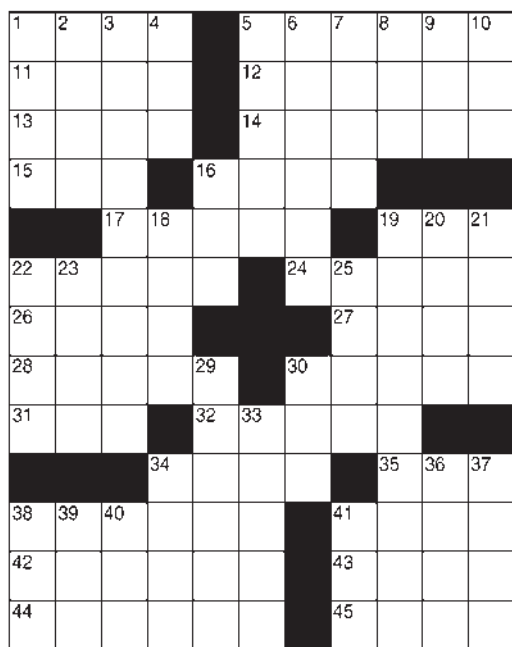
- 44 Andy Hardy's portrayer
- 45 Poker payment

DOWN

- 1 Butte's kin
- 2 Good pair
- 3 Geometric shape
- 4 Engine sound
- 5 Spine-tingling
- 6 Geometric shape
- 7 Chicago team
- 8 Vault part
- 9 Low digit
- 10 Marry
- 16 Dentist's deg.
- 18 Singer Horne
- 19 Geometric shape
- 20 Gorillas and gibbons
- 21 Ham or lamb
- 22 Losing scheme
- 23 Writer Rice
- 25 Old Italian coin
- 29 Geometric shape
- 30 Crow call
- 33 Squalid
- 34 Singer Celine
- 36 Artery problem
- 37 TV's Daly
- 38 Spoil
- 39 Before today
- 40 Summer sign
- 41 Much of N. Amer.



Yesterday's answer



12-6

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-6

CRYPTOQUOTE

FQGGJUIPCD KGBDR RDZRD
VE VPQ LGRJ, OQUZFR LDGHD
EVQ JVCGX, GZC HQDGJDR G
AURUVZ EVQ JVKVQQVM.

— KDWVCX ODGJJUD

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: FAMILIES ARE LIKE FUDGE — MOSTLY SWEET, WITH A FEW NUTS.
— LES DAWSON

Cruise ship Schedule: December 01 - 08 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
SUN	01	EXPLORER OF THE SEAS - dept. OCEANIA SIRENA FREEWINDS - DEPT.	**** 07.00 ****	18.00 16.00 22.15	C B E	- 1 -
MON	02	BRITANNIA	09.00	18.00	C	1
TUE	03	CARNIVAL VISTA OASIS OF THE SEAS	13.00 08.00	23.00 21.00	C I	1 1
WED	04	EVIRIMA FREEWINDS	08.00 06.00	**** ****	C E	1 1
THU	05	SEABOURN OVATION EVIRIMA - DEPT. AIDALUNA	08.00 **** 08.00	21.00 19.00 18.00	B C I	1 - 1
FRI	06	AZAMARA JOURNEY CARNIVAL LIBERTY	13.00 09.00	22.00 22.00	B C	1 1
SAT	07	NORWEGIAN GEM AIDAPERLA	07.00 10.00	21.00 ****	C I	1 1
SUN	08	CELEBRITY BEYOND NORWEGIAN JEWEL AIDAPERLA - Dept. FREEWINDS - DEPT.	09.00 14.00 **** ****	21.00 21.30 22.00 22.15	B C I E	1 1 - -

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

Supermarket hours

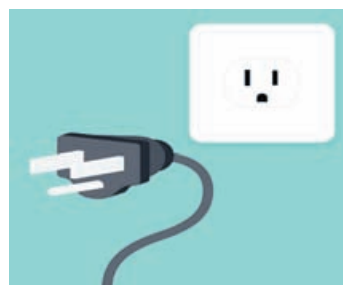


Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

Honey Dolls
MASSAGE AND ESCORT SERVICE

Beautiful Latin Girls
Pick-up & Delivery

Serving Men - Couple - Women - All Genders

+297 565-9535

WWW.PLEASUREINARUBA.COM

24/7

Scientists gather to decode puzzle of the world's rarest whale in 'extraordinary' New Zealand study

By **CHARLOTTE GRAHAM-McLAY**
Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — It is the world's rarest whale, with only seven of its kind ever spotted.

Almost nothing is known about the enigmatic species. But on Monday a small group of scientists and cultural experts in New Zealand clustered around a near-perfectly preserved spade-toothed whale hoping to decode decades of mystery.

"I can't tell you how extraordinary it is," said a joyful Anton van Helden, senior marine science adviser for New Zealand's conservation agency, who gave the spade-toothed whale its name to distinguish it from other beaked species. "For me personally, it's unbelievable."

Van Helden has studied beaked whales for 35 years, but Monday was the first time he has participated in a dissection of the spade-toothed variety. In fact, the careful study of the creature which washed up dead on a New Zealand beach in July is the first ever to take place.

None has ever been seen alive at sea.

The list of what scientists don't know about spade-toothed whales is longer than what they do know. They don't know where in the ocean the whales live, why they've never been spotted in the wild, or what their brains look like. All beaked whales have different stomach systems and researchers don't know how the spade-toothed kind processes its food. They don't know how this one died.

Over the next week, researchers studying the 5-meter (16-foot) -long male at an agricultural research center near the city of Dunedin hope to find out.

"There may be parasites completely new to science that just live in this whale," said van Helden, who thrilled at the chance of



Beaked whale expert Anton van Helden inspects a male spade-toothed whale ahead of a dissection at Invermay Agricultural Centre, Mosgiel, near Dunedin, New Zealand, Monday, Dec. 2, 2024

Associated Press

learning how the species produces sound and what it eats. "Who knows what we'll discover?"

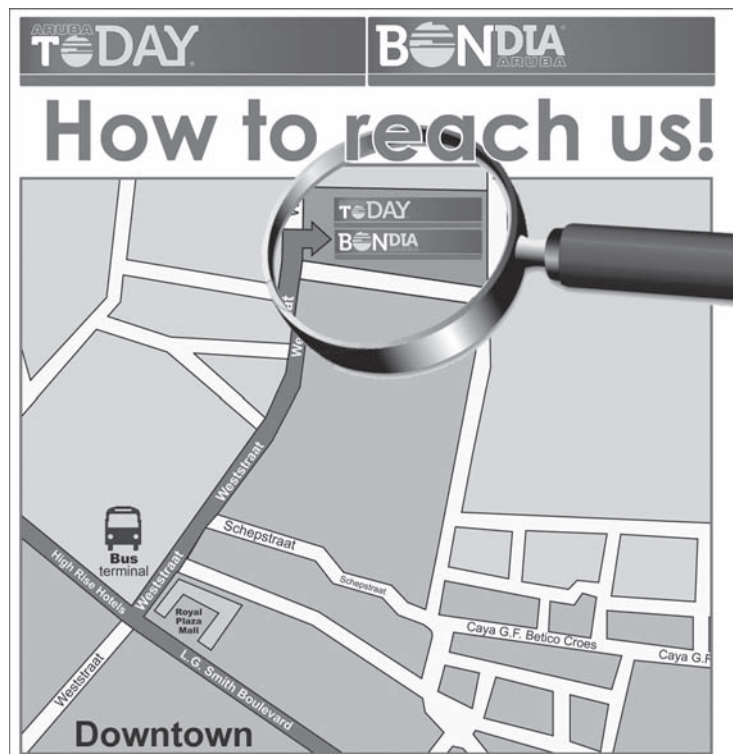
Only six other spade-toothed whales have ever been found, but all those discovered intact were buried before DNA testing could verify their identification.

New Zealand is a whale-stranding hotspot, with more than 5,000 episodes recorded since 1840, according to the Department of Conservation. The first spade-toothed whale bones were found in 1872

on New Zealand's Pitt Island. Another discovery was made at an offshore island in the 1950s, and the bones of a third were found on Chile's Robinson Crusoe Island in 1986.

DNA sequencing in 2002 proved that all three specimens were of the same species and that it was distinct from other beaked whales. But researchers studying the mammal couldn't confirm whether the species was extinct until 2010, when two whole spade-toothed whales, both dead, washed up

on a New Zealand beach. But none has been studied before. □



HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

del Pueblo: Tel. 582 1253

San Nicolas:

Seroe Preto: Tel. 584 4833

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850

Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

Walk-In Doctor's Clinic

+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank	Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired	Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous	Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous	Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia Relacional	Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes	Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention	Tel. 582 4433
Quota Club	Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118

Like us on Facebook



ARUBA TODAY NEWS



Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Editors

Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figuereo

Sales

Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
f @arubatoday

Bitcoin has surpassed the \$100,000 mark as the post-election rally continues. What's next?

By **WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS**

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Bitcoin topped \$100,000 for the first time as a massive rally in the world's most popular cryptocurrency, largely accelerated by the election of Donald Trump, rolls on.

The cryptocurrency officially to rose six figures Wednesday night, just hours after the president-elect said he intends to nominate cryptocurrency advocate Paul Atkins to be the next chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Bitcoin has soared since Trump won the U.S. presidential election on Nov. 5. The asset climbed from \$69,374 on Election Day, hitting as high as \$103,713 Wednesday, according to CoinDesk. And the latest all-time high arrives just two years after bitcoin dropped below \$17,000 following the collapse of crypto exchange FTX.

Bitcoin fell below \$101,000 by Thursday afternoon. Even amid a massive rally that has more than doubled the value of bitcoin this year, some experts continue to warn of investment risks around the asset, which has quite a volatile history.

Here's what you need to know.

Back up. What is cryptocurrency again?

Cryptocurrency has been around for a while now. But chances are you've heard about it more and more over the last few years.

In basic terms, cryptocurrency is digital money. This kind of currency is designed to work through an online network without a central authority meaning it's typically not backed by any government or banking institution and transactions get recorded with technology called a blockchain.

Bitcoin is the largest and oldest cryptocurrency, although other assets like ethereum, XRP, tether and dogecoin have also gained popularity over the years. Some investors see cryptocurrency as a "digital alter-



Bitcoin logos are displayed at the Inside Bitcoins conference and trade show on April 7, 2014, in New York. Bitcoin has topped the \$100,000 mark.

Associated Press

native" to traditional money, but the large majority of daily financial transactions are still conducted using fiat currencies such as the dollar. Also, bitcoin can be very volatile, with its price reliant on larger market conditions.

Why is bitcoin soaring?

A lot of the recent action has to do with the outcome of the U.S. presidential election.

Trump, who was once a crypto skeptic, has pledged to make the U.S. "the crypto capital of the planet" and create a "strategic reserve" of bitcoin. His campaign accepted donations in cryptocurrency and he courted fans at a bitcoin conference in July. He also launched World Liberty Financial, a new venture with family members to trade cryptocurrencies.

On Thursday morning, hours after bitcoin surpassed the \$100,000 mark, Trump congratulated "BITCOINERS" on his social media platform Truth Social. He also appeared to take credit for the recent rally, writing, "YOU'RE WELCOME!!!"

Top crypto players welcomed Trump's election victory last month, in hopes that he would be able to push through legislative and regulatory changes that they've long lobbied

for which, generally speaking, aim for an increased sense of legitimacy without too much red tape. And the industry has made sizeable investments along the way.

Back in August, Public Citizen, a left-leaning consumer rights advocacy nonprofit, reported finding that crypto-sector corporations spent more than \$119 million in 2024 to back pro-crypto candidates across federal elections.

Trump made his latest pro-crypto move when he announced his plans Wednesday to nominate Atkins to chair the SEC. Atkins was an SEC commissioner during the presidency of George W. Bush. In the years since leaving the agency, Atkins has made the case against too much market regulation. He joined the Token Alliance, a cryptocurrency advocacy organization, in 2017.

Under current chair Gary Gensler, who will step down when Trump takes office, the SEC has cracked down on the crypto industry penalizing a number of companies for violating securities laws. Gensler has also faced ample criticism from industry players in the process.

One crypto-friendly move the SEC did make under Gensler was the approval

in January of spot bitcoin ETFs, or exchange trade funds, which allow investors to have a stake in bitcoin without directly buying it. The spot ETFs were the dominant driver of bitcoin's price before Trump's win but, like much of the crypto's recent momentum, saw record inflows postelection.

What does bitcoin hitting the \$100k mark mean? Could it keep climbing? Bitcoin surpassing the coveted \$100,000 mark has left much of the crypto world buzzing.

"What we're seeing isn't just a rally it's a fundamental transformation of bitcoin's place in the financial system," Nathan McCauley, CEO and co-founder of crypto custodian Anchorage Digital, said in a statement while pointing to the growth of who's entering the market, particularly with rising institutional adoption.

Still, others note that the new heights of bitcoin's price don't necessarily mean the asset is going mainstream. The \$100,000 level is "merely a psychological factor and ultimately just a number," Dan Coatsworth, investment analyst at British investment company AJ Bell, wrote in a Thursday commentary. That being said, bitcoin

could keep climbing to more and more all-time highs particularly if Trump makes good on his promises for more crypto-friendly regulation once in office. If Trump actually makes a bitcoin reserve, for example, supply changes could also propel the price forward.

Still, as with everything in the volatile cryptoverse, the future is never promised. Worldwide regulatory uncertainties and environmental concerns around bitcoin "mining" the creation of new bitcoin, which consumes a lot of energy are among factors that analysts like Coatsworth note could hamper future growth. And, as still a relatively-young asset with a history of volatility, longer-term adoption has yet to be seen through.

Is it too late to invest? What are the risks?

Today's excitement around bitcoin may make many who aren't already in the space want to get in on the action, but experts continue to stress caution around crypto "FOMO," or the fear of missing out, especially for small-pocketed investors.

"A lot of people have got rich from the cryptocurrency soaring in value this year, but this high-risk asset isn't suitable for everyone," Coatsworth noted Thursday.

"It's volatile, unpredictable and is driven by speculation, none of which makes for a sleep-at-night investment."

In short, history shows you can lose money in crypto as quickly as you've made it. Long-term price behavior relies on larger market conditions.

Trading continues at all hours, every day.

Coatsworth points to recent research from the Bank for International Settlements, a Switzerland-based global organization of central banks, which found that about three-quarters of retail buyers on crypto exchange apps likely lost money on their bitcoin investments between 2015 and 2022. □

'Embarrassing': The Lakers have lost their last 2 games by a combined 70 points

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Basketball Writer

MIAMI (AP) — A 29-point loss in Minnesota on Monday. A 41-point loss in Miami on Wednesday. Add it up, and it's the worst two-game stretch in Los Angeles Lakers history. The Lakers lost to the Heat 134-93 on Wednesday, that loss coming two days after a 109-80 loss to the Timberwolves. The 70-point margin is an all-time, two-game low for the Lakers; they were outscored by 67 over two separate two-game spans of the 2016-17 season.

"It sucks, for sure, to get your (butt) whooped like that twice in a row," Lakers star LeBron James said. "For sure."

The Lakers ran off a six-game winning streak last month to get to 10-4. They're 2-6 since, four of those losses coming by 25 or more points. Wednesday was the low point; the 41-point loss was not only the worst of the season, but it marked only the 11th time in Lakers history more than 6,800 games, including playoffs that they've lost by more than 40.

"I'm embarrassed," Lakers coach JJ Redick said. "We're all embarrassed."



Los Angeles Lakers forward Armel Traore looks up at the score as the team falls behind during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Miami Heat, Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2024, in Miami.

Redick is now 12-10 in Year 1 as a coach, and this stretch has obviously been his toughest yet. He oscillated in his postgame remarks

Wednesday between pointing the finger at himself "I'll take all the ownership in the world. This is my team and I lead it," he said and saying the team is having trouble with the simplest parts of the game plan.

"There's not a sense from

me that we're 'together' right now," Redick said. "And that's what we say in the huddle. Doesn't feel that way. Doesn't feel that way. We're in a tough stretch and we're all trying to find it."

Miami outscored the Lakers 72-15 from 3-point range that 57-point differential tying the fourth-largest in NBA history.

"We're having trouble right now on both ends with like

base-level gameplan stuff," Redick said. "It's odd. It's very odd."

Anthony Davis had a season-low 12 points for the Lakers on Monday. He was four points worse on Wednesday on 3-for-14 shooting.

"Guys are doing their part. I'm not doing mine, which is just tough for our team," Davis said. "I just have to play better individually on both ends. I hold myself

to a higher standard and I haven't been doing what I needed to do especially offensively for our team."

James said he agreed with everything Redick said, and Davis even echoed a word his coach used multiple times.

"Embarrassing," Davis said. James hopes the rest of the Lakers' locker room takes on that level of accountability. He insisted that 22 years in the league have taught him not to get too high when things are good or too low when things are bad.

But back-to-back games like this represent something the likes of which he's never dealt with. The Lakers play at Atlanta on Friday, go home to face Portland on Sunday and then get a few days off the NBA Cup quarterfinals on Dec. 10 and 11 are a built-in break for the teams that didn't advance to the knockout stage of that tournament to practice and seek solutions.

"When you're individually (messing) up and you're trying to rely on everybody else to cover for you, I think it starts with the individual first," James said. "All of us have to take accountability." □

Associated Press

Manny Pacquiao, winner of titles in a record 8 weight classes, elected to Boxing Hall of Fame

By **BRIAN MAHONEY**
AP Sports Writer

Manny Pacquiao, who won titles in a record eight weight classes from flyweight to super welterweight while becoming one of boxing's biggest draws, was elected Thursday to the International Boxing Hall of Fame.

Pacquiao, who fought in some of the blockbuster bouts of the 2000s before returning home to the Philippines to serve in its government, will be enshrined June 8 as the headline name in the 2025 class. Vinny Paz, who overcame a broken neck sustained in a car crash to resume his career, and two-division champion Michael Nunn were the other fighters elected from the men's modern category. In all, 14 people were selected for the museum in Canastota, New York, through voting by members of the Boxing Writers Association of America and a panel of

international boxing historians.

Pacquiao was an easy choice in his first year of eligibility after compiling a 62-8-2 record with 39 knockouts during a pro career that began in 1995 and lasted until 2021.

"This certainly is a wonderful Christmas gift. Throughout my career, as a professional fighter and a public servant, it has been my goal to bring honor to my country, the Philippines, and my fellow Filipinos around the world," Pacquiao said. "Today, I am humbled knowing that in June, I will receive boxing's highest honor, joining our national hero, Flash Elorde, as well as my trainer and friend Freddie Roach."

A 106-pounder when he debuted, Pacquiao rose all the way to win a title at the 154-pound limit, yet never lost his speed as he put on more pounds and overwhelmed naturally bigger fighters with a dizzying flurry of power punches. □



Manny Pacquiao from the Philippines wears the champion's belt after defeating Brandon Rios of the United States in their WBO international welterweight title fight Sunday, Nov. 24, 2013, in Macau. Pacquiao defeated Rios by unanimous decision.

Associated Press



12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 15 - 26, 2024

Receive one (1) raffle ticket for every 50 points /\$25 theoretical win.
Earning period starting December 1, 2024.

OVER \$35,000 IN PRIZES!

\$10,000 <small>IN SLOT CREDIT PRIZES</small>	\$11,150 <small>IN HOLIDAY BINGO CASH PRIZES (DEC 24 & 26)</small>	\$15,000 <small>IN CASH PRIZES</small>
---	--	--

DRAWINGS EVERY NIGHT STARTING AT 7:00PM

The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba encourages Responsible Gaming.

Pegula returns to New York after U.S. Open breakthrough for MSG exhibition that includes Alcaraz

By **BRIAN MAHONEY**
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — When Jessica Pegula agreed to play in an exhibition tennis event at Madison Square Garden, she had no idea how her career would change before she got there.

The Buffalo native always loved playing in New York, but the U.S. Open was just like the other three tennis majors. She had never been able to get past the quarterfinals.

But shortly after committing to play in The Garden Cup, she broke through and reached the final at Flushing Meadows in September, losing to current No. 1-ranked Aryna Sabalenka and creating memories that came flooding back when she returned this week.

"So I think even now that I've had that great result,



Jessica Pegula, of the United States, returns a shot to Aryna Sabalenka, of Belarus, during the women's singles final of the U.S. Open tennis championships, Saturday, Sept. 7, 2024, in New York.

(

being able to come back, it's even cooler," Pegula said.

Pegula lost 7-6, 7-5 on Wednesday night to fellow American Emma Navarro,

a U.S. Open semifinalist. Carlos Alcaraz, a four-time Grand Slam champion,

then beat American Ben Shelton 4-6, 6-2, (7-4), delivering entertaining exchanges before a sold-out crowd that was announced at 19,698.

"Really happy to show you my tennis," Alcaraz, who won his first major title at 19 at the 2022 U.S. Open, told the fans afterward.

Alcaraz got back on court after a brief break, saying he didn't touch his racket for about 1 1/2 weeks after playing for Spain in the Davis Cup in what was Rafael Nadal's final appearance before retiring.

Pegula had a longer one, needing to rest a knee that was bothering her after playing in the WTA Finals in Saudi Arabia in early November.

She took about three weeks off, then started hitting again about two weeks ago to prepare to play Wednesday. □

Associated Press